Hillside Middle School's

Tiger Tribune

Issue 1, December 2025

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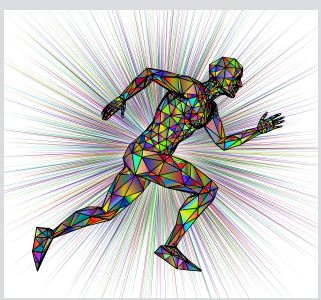


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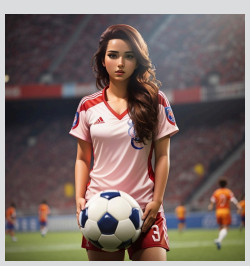
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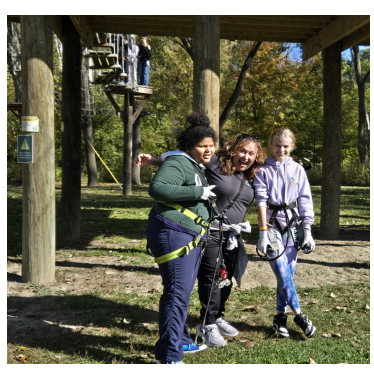
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Look who's GOING APE!







Thanks to a grant, our 7th grade students took a field trip to **GO APE Zipline and Adventure Park** at Cleveland Metropark's Mill Stream Run Reservation in Strongsville.

Photos courtesy of 7th grade teacher, Mr. Hartland

D.C. Delights - 8th Grade Takes the Capital!

Article and photos by 8th Grade Student Editors, Michael Mays and Haley Cancilliere

The 8th grade Washington D.C. trip isn't just a field trip; for many Hillside students, it's the biggest event of the year. It has a legendary reputation for being both fun and exciting, offering students an abundance of independence—maybe the most some have ever had. But did this year's trip live up to the hype? I hit the aisles on the bus ride home to find out.

Fortunately, the results are in: everyone I interviewed loved the trip. When asked about specific favorites, many students pointed to the powerful monuments and memorials. For Ava Petz and Victor Popovici, the highlights were the war memorials. "My favorite part was going to the war memorials to honor our fallen military," Ava said.

Others, like Hayley Brogan, singled out the moving MLK



Memorial and the towering Washington Monument as their favorite stops.

The solemn beauty of Arlington National Cemetery also left a major impression. For Jalysa Peppers, it was her favorite part of the trip, especially as she'd never visited a cemetery before. Laith Alsadiq agreed, noting that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier within Arlington was his most memorable moment. Of course, you can't talk about D.C. without mentioning the museums. Aron Varga and Baron Daun both said their favorite parts were exploring the amazing exhibits our nation's capital has to offer. "Probably going to the National Museum," Baron responded when asked for his top pick. But for pure fun, many students were most excited for the cruise. Michael Matson, for example, said the boat trip was likely his favorite part of the entire experience.

It wasn't just the students having a good time, the teacher chaperones loved the trip, too. Mr. Jackson, now on his second D.C. trip, told me his favorite part was visiting Gettysburg on the first day, giving a special shout-out to the "very enjoyable" tour guide.

Mrs. Nolan, a third-year veteran, couldn't pick just one! She said one of the most "cinematic" moments was the Changing of the Guards, but she "also has a lot of love for Iwo Jima." One thing is for sure: Mrs. Nolan claims she's always on "BBE: Best Bus Ever!"

From the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg to the bustling museum halls and the powerful memorials, this year's D.C. trip was clearly a massive success. It delivered on its reputation, giving Hillside 8th graders a perfect mix of fun, freedom, and a meaningful connection to our nation's history.

A Legacy of Leadership: Thank you, Mr. Forney!



Article by 8th Grade Student Editor, Michael Mays

For many eighth-grade students, the Washington D.C. trip is a highlight of their middle school experience. This memorable trip, however, would not be possible without the tremendous effort of the teachers who organize and chaperone it.

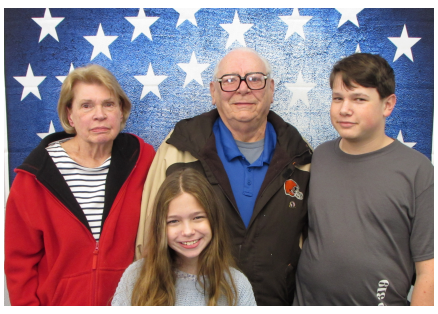
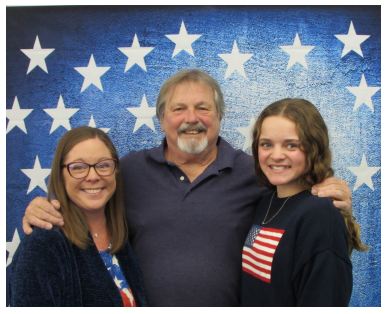
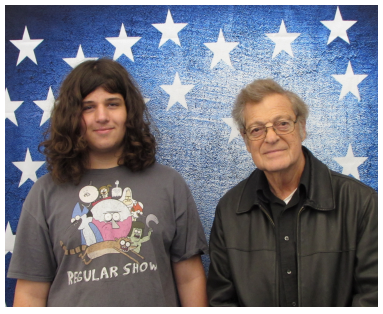
Mr. Forney, in particular, has played an essential role in planning the trip and ensuring it runs smoothly. This year was especially significant, as it marked his final year leading the D.C. trip after an incredible 29-year commitment.

While the trip requires months of meticulous planning, Mr. Forney confirmed he has always enjoyed leading it. He shared that his favorite parts are "spending time with students outside of the classroom" and the visit to Arlington National Cemetery.

All eighth graders who have benefited from this amazing opportunity owe Mr. Forney a profound thank you for his decades of dedication. His hard work has created lasting memories for generations of students.

GAME-On With Heroes

Teaming Up With the City of Seven Hills To Celebrate Our Veterans





Article by Michael Mays
8th Grade Student Editor

Photos by 8th Grader Student Editors
Nehali Day and Jacob Hershberger

Veterans Day is one of our most important holidays, a time devoted to thanking the brave men and women who served our country. We owe all of our veterans a deep debt of gratitude, as they fought for the precious freedoms we, as Americans, enjoy every day.

To show our appreciation, Hillside celebrated Veterans Day by hosting a special event at the Seven Hills Rec Center called, “Game On with Heroes.” Our middle school worked in conjunction with the City of Seven Hills to make this celebration happen.

Students invented veterans they knew to enjoy breakfast treats and play games. The 8th grade Hillside choir even performed several beautiful, patriotic songs.

I had the privilege of attending this event and was able to ask some of these honored guests what Hillside’s celebration meant to them.

One gentleman who served in our country’s Air Force was very appreciative of the event, humbly telling me that he felt "everything that should be said about Veterans Day has been said already." I couldn't agree more with his humble perspective. I also met a man who served in the Army, who echoed that he truly enjoyed the celebration Hillside had organized.

Another veteran who served in our Navy for four years said he enjoyed the celebration and was "just glad to be honored." He shared a powerful story about the past, reminding us that when there was a military draft, soldiers returning from war were often treated poorly. Instead of being welcomed as heroes, they were criticized and could not even wear their uniforms in public. He emphasized that these men and women served our country and deserved the utmost respect then, just as they do now.

I was deeply moved by a woman whose family has a truly incredible military heritage. Her mother served in the Women’s Army during the Korean War, and other relatives worked on B-52 bombers. Her family's service, she explained, “goes all the way back to the Revolutionary War when America first declared its independence.” She told me she thought the celebration was "very, very nice" and that it is important that "we never forget the sacrifices made.” That legacy of service continues, as she proudly shared that another family member is currently a captain in the army.

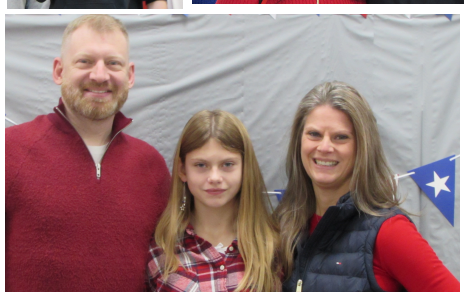
To all of our readers - please remember that Veterans Day is our chance to recognize all the brave men and women who have served America. We owe all veterans and those currently serving in a branch of the military our deepest respect.

On behalf
of our entire
Tiger Family
at Hillside,
we proudly say to
our Veterans,
"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!"












WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Our Newest Tigers Experience New Faces and New Places

Article by Christina Otero
5th Grade Reporter

Starting 5th grade is a big step! The hallways seem bigger, there are many new faces, and the change can feel a little strange. I spoke with two new 5th-grade students here at Hillside about their experience.

New 5th grader Xavier Rodriguez shared that he was "feeling a little bit strange." He also noticed "a lot more people" in the building. When it came to making friends, Xavier said it wasn't too hard, mainly because he still has many of his old friends with him. In class, Xavier's favorite subject is social studies.

Charlotte Mahoney, another 5th grade student new to Hillside Middle School, had a different experience. For her, she said, "it was difficult to make friends" at



first. Charlotte "felt weird moving to a new school environment." Many students can probably relate; starting somewhere new often makes us feel at least a little nervous or awkward.

Luckily, that feeling didn't last long for Charlotte. She thought "everyone was super nice" and realized after just a few days that Hillside was "a good environment."

It's clear that a lot of kids feel nervous or scared when they start something new. As Xavier and Charlotte show, it's a normal part of life, and it gets better!

Leading the Pack:

Inside Hillside's Student Council

Article by Emma Cash
5th Grade Reporter

Student Council is well-known, but what exactly goes on behind the scenes?

To find out, I sat down with Miss Vanek, the Student Council advisor, to get the scoop. Simply put, Student Council is an organization run by Hillside students dedicated to planning exciting events and participating in meaningful community service projects.

You may ask, who can join this dynamic team? According to Miss Vanek, teachers in each grade level keep an eye out for specific qualities when selecting members. They are looking for students who are responsible, respectful, and bursting with school spirit.

Leading this group requires dedication and experience. Miss Vanek became the advisor after applying for the role, bringing with her valuable experience from her time as an advisor for Parma City Schools. She isn't doing it alone, though; she works alongside her co-advisor, Mrs. Szemplak, to ensure everything runs smoothly.

If you are worried about fitting this into your schedule, don't panic. Official meetings only happen once a month. However, members stay plenty busy throughout the year preparing for various activities and events, even when there isn't a scheduled sit-down.

For any student reading this who is on the fence about joining, Miss Vanek has some encouraging words. "I always encourage students to get involved with school activities," she states. "Joining any club or team provides opportunities to meet new people, build leadership, and have some fun."

Fun, Food, & Prizes at the Hillside Social

Article by Chloe Vaughn
5th Grade Reporter

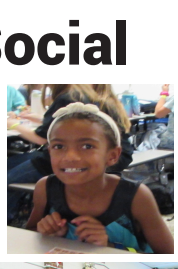
Leading up to the big event, the 5th graders were dying of curiosity. They had no idea what to expect! Meanwhile, the 6th graders were keeping the surprise top secret, whispering in the hallways and telling the younger students, "You'll find out soon!"

When the day finally arrived, the secret was revealed, and the 5th graders were thrilled. The cafeteria was packed with pizza, snacks, and a high-stakes game of BINGO.

The first big winner of the night was Olivia S. I caught up with her after her victory to ask how it felt. "I was excited that I won," Olivia said "And I got a good prize!"

It wasn't just the students having fun; the staff was enjoying the vibe, too. Mrs. Szemplak, Student Council Co-Advisor, was pleased with the energy in the room. She noted that the students' behavior was great and that it was a successful evening for all.

The night also featured some amazing talent on the dance floor and some creative outfits. Big congratulations go to Drew, TJ, and London for winning awards for best dancers and funniest costumes. The award for "Most Creative Costume" went to the "Uno Girls"—Gabby, Moria, and Ollie.







Photos by 5th Graders Aubrey Rose & Kazi Tomaro







It seems the night was a total hit. When I asked students Katie and Charlotte if they liked the social, they immediately shouted, "YES!" When asked what their favorite part was, they both agreed: "The prizes!"

From the pizza to the prizes, the Hillside Social was a night to remember.



Move It or Lose It!
Why Our Hallways Need An Express Lane





The hallway just prior (above) and just after (right) the bell rings at the end of a typical day at Hillside Middle School.

Article by CeCe Santander
8th Grade News Reporter

Picture this: you're desperately trying to make it to class before the bell, but you're stuck behind a group of slow walkers. You try the daring "locker dash," only to be stopped by a human traffic jam worthy of rush hour. You're racing the clock, backpack bouncing, but the hallway is blocked by locker chats, slow walkers, and that one person doing the cha-cha slide with their earbuds in. Wouldn't it be amazing if you could just zip through it all?

Welcome to the wild, wonderful idea of an express lane in our school hallways!

First off, let's visualize the sheer joy of never being late again. Did you know that, according to one national survey, nearly 30% of students report being late to class at least once a week because of crowded hallways? With an express lane, you could glide straight to class, bypassing the infamous "walking-and-talking" crowd that seems to move at the speed of molasses.

No more awkward explanations to your teacher about being trapped behind someone practicing their moonwalk. You'd arrive on time, every time—like a hallway superhero! Plus, think about those urgent bathroom breaks. We've all been there: the clock is ticking, your bladder is protesting, and the hallway is an obstacle course. An express lane would mean a clear shot to the restroom, no more desperate sidestepping or pleading "Excuse me!" as you weave through impromptu reunions.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

With extra time, you could actually visit your locker without risking a tardy. Experts say the average student backpack weighs a ton (okay, more like 12-20% of their body weight) often because we don't have time to swap books.

Imagine swapping out heavy textbooks, grabbing forgotten homework, or rescuing that banana you left last week. Your backpack would be lighter and your snack game much stronger.

To keep things organized, the express lane could feature friendly dividers to help everyone walk on the same side and avoid collisions. We could even reward good etiquette with "Fast Track Champion" badges or special spirit wear. Hallway navigation could become a fun team effort!

Of course, no great idea is that simple. One major concern is space. Our hallways might not be big enough for an express lane without causing a jam elsewhere. Squeezing in an extra lane could mean creative rearranging... or knocking down a wall or two (just kidding!).

Safety is another issue. We'd need barriers to prevent slow walkers from wandering into the fast lane and causing a pile-up, but installing those could be tricky and expensive. Speaking of money, funding this project could add up faster than you can say "Chicken Banana." We'd need materials and maybe even hallway "traffic monitors." Then again, maybe we'd discover a hidden talent among our staff for directing foot traffic with the precision of an air traffic controller!

Despite the challenges, the express lane is worth considering.

Imagine how much smoother our days would be if we could move efficiently, lighten our loads, and enjoy a little extra freedom. Maybe we could start small with just painted lines and signs to guide the flow. If it works, we could upgrade to real dividers later. So, next time you're stuck in a hallway traffic jam, just imagine a future where you can glide through the halls like a hero. Let's make the express lane dream a reality, one step at a time!



Fresh Air and Family,

The Father's Walk Success!

Back on September 18, right at the beginning of the school year, the grounds outside our school were buzzing with excitement—and for a great reason! We hosted our annual Father's Walk, an event dedicated to bringing fathers, uncles, grandfathers, and father figures to campus to show their support.

This event is about more than just showing up; it plays a big role in how we learn. Studies show that when male role models are actively involved in a student's education, those students tend to get better grades, have better attendance, and enjoy school more. It was the perfect way to set a positive tone for the new semester.

The event was a total success with many attending outside to enjoy the morning weather. We started with a packed outdoor breakfast where students got to eat with their guests. The fun continued on the lawn with games of cornhole and plenty of photo opportunities to capture the memory. It was awesome to see so many families enjoying the fresh air while having positive conversations with our teachers and staff.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making the Father's Walk such a fun and meaningful morning. We can't wait to see you all again next year!















Sunny skies, big smiles, and families coming together, all for one goal - to celebrate our Hillside students' education!

A New Addition to HMS
WELCOME MS. ASHURST
5th Grade Teacher on Team PAWS

Article by *Emma Brown*
5th Grade News Reporter

Photos by 5th Grader, Aubrey Rose

The Hillside Tiger Family is proud to welcome one of its newest teachers, Ms. Ashurst. Joining the 5th-grade team as a recent college graduate, Ms. Ashurst brings new energy and ideas to the building. She recently shared her story about the journey that led her to Hillside and what inspires her as an educator.

Ms. Ashurst decided to become a teacher because she always loved going to school as a student. Her 8th-grade ELA teacher was a major inspiration who helped her realize that teaching was the career she wanted. To achieve this goal, she took introductory college classes in subjects like Math, Reading, and Psychology.

At Hillside, Ms. Ashurst enjoys her job, calling the school "fun." She loves the staff, how they work together, and the way they interact with students. Of course, the job also has challenges. She notes that the most difficult parts are grading lots of papers and learning all the new material for the first

When asked about the best and worst parts of her day, Ms. Ashurst said the best thing is the students and the other teachers. The worst part, she says, is "when everybody talks when they are not supposed to." She also likes the block schedule, which allows her to focus on one subject for one period and a different subject for the next.

When Ms. Ashurst was asked if she ever wanted to be anything else besides a teacher, she said she may have become a surgeon, a dream she had when she was very young. Teaching, however, seems to be her true calling. Ms. Ashurst has wanted to be a teacher since she was six years old. She remembers coming home from school and playing with imaginary students—practicing for the job she has today.

Her lifelong dream is now a reality in the 5th-grade classrooms at Hillside. Ms. Ashurst's enthusiasm is a fantastic addition to the school, and students are already benefiting from her passion. The Hillside community is thrilled to officially welcome her to the Tiger Family and looks forward to a great year ahead.





Top: Ms. Ashurst gets ready to teach social studies in her classroom. Above: With loads of school spirit, Mrs. Wiles and Ms. Ashurst do the "O-H" cheer for OSU Day! Go Buckeyes!



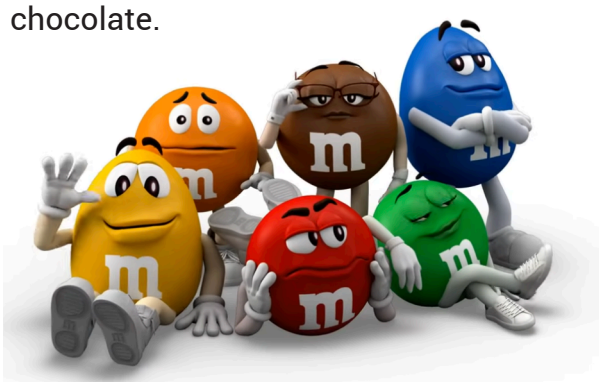
Mr. Lucarelli's M&M Obsession is a SWEET Collection!

Article by *Sara Hershberger and Yaminah Al*
6th Grade News Reporters

Have you ever met someone with a truly unique obsession? Look no further than Mr. Lucarelli, a 6th-grade ELA teacher here at Hillside who has a massive passion for M&M's.

This colorful hobby started during his very first year of teaching when he would bring M&M's to school for a snack. His students noticed how much he enjoyed the candy, so at the end of the school year, they surprised him with an M&M dispenser. That single gift sparked a collection that has continued to grow to this day.

Currently, Mr. Lucarelli has an entire room at his house dedicated to M&M merchandise, and his classroom is filled with M&Ms, too. In fact, he has collected **over 1,000 M&M items!** That is some serious dedication to chocolate.





Gridiron Reflections

Captains and Players Share Season Insights

Photos by
7th Grader, Reyce Kerns

Article by Omar Abdelhai
5th Grade Reporter

The Hillside Middle School football team, led by their four amazing captains, Colin Tama, David Garcia, Ethan Krupp, and John Askew, recently wrapped up their season. Preparation was key for the players who got ready for upcoming games by training, stretching, and practicing hard, as well as preparing mentally.

The captains explained that their teammates selected them as captains because, "they worked hard and they started to lead the team." The role was not always easy. The captains shared that one of the biggest challenges was "to keep the team together" and lead effectively.

Despite a challenging 1-7 season, the captains felt the team did well. The captains identified their strength as defense, while their main weakness was "applying what the teammates learned during practice and games."

The captains named the Buckeye game, their last one of the season, as their biggest success. The team also learned a lot from difficult games, like those against Rocky River and North Olmsted. The Rocky River game was especially important as it was David's first time playing as QB, and he learned a lot. Even though the North Olmsted game was difficult, the captains noted that the team put in effort.

When asked for advice for next year's 7th graders, the captains encouraged them to "put in the effort and play hard." They added, "Try to lead the team, play as a team and be above and beyond... you can not be ordinary."

All the captains hope to continue playing football in high school. Colin, David, Ethan and John feel their experience as captains will help them be role models for the upcoming players. They also agreed that being leaders is important because you get to help teammates out.

Other players also shared their experiences. The team's quarterback (QB) pointed to the Westlake game as his most challenging, noting it was his "worst performing game" and one where he "only did hand-offs." In contrast, he felt his best performance was during the successful Buckeye game.

Looking to the future, the QB hopes to play in high school, college, and even "go pro." While he admitted he has not had a game with "perfect passes all game," he has had games where he was "on point." He confirmed that training to be a QB is difficult because "it is [hard] to learn your plays and know your people."

Captain David, a wide receiver on the team, shared his perspective as well. He said the hardest part of his position is "remembering your plays and the running and the blocking." As for the easiest part, he said "running the routes" was easier, but quickly added that the

position "is just hard at all." He felt his best game was "one of the first games of the season." He explained that he typically has "0 to 2 people on you in a game" and was tackled "1 to 2 times" per game. He also shared that he was benched during the Shiloh game, which happened about three times during the season.





Cheerleaders Bring On Our TIGER Spirit!



The Challenges and Triumphs of Coaching Hillside Volleyball

Article by *Ollie Crank , 6th Grade Reporter*
Photos by 8th Grader, Nehali Dey

Being a volleyball player requires grit and determination, but have you ever considered the unique challenges faced by the person standing on the sidelines? I recently sat down with Coach Durkin to discuss what life is like as a leader of the Hillside Volleyball Team.

Reflecting on the past season, Coach Durkin noted that the toughest opponent the team faced was Bay Village. Despite the stiff competition, the team showed remarkable growth. Coach Durkin proudly reported that the girls won three games this year. This is a significant improvement from the previous season, where the group secured only one victory as 7th graders.

Beyond the scoreboard, Coach Durkin discovers great joy in the teaching process. She emphasized that her favorite lessons focus on teamwork and strategy. She believes that mastering these concepts improves a player's personal skills, which subsequently elevates the performance of the entire team. To help lead the squad, coaches look for athletes who are hardworking, represent the team with pride, and display natural leadership qualities. These captains are typically selected during the first two weeks of practice.

Coach Durkin brings plenty of personal experience to the court, having played volleyball herself from sixth grade all the way through high school. However, even with that experience, coaching comes with obstacles. The most significant hurdle she faces is the clock. Coach Durkin admitted that the season is very short, leaving little time to prepare. She expressed that her biggest challenge is knowing she has the ability to make the team even better, but simply not having enough practice time to do so. Despite the time crunch, Coach Durkin remains dedicated to helping her players succeed both on and off the court.















More Than Just Speed:
The Insider's Guide to Competitive Running



Article by *Islam Yahi, 7th Grade Sports Reporter*
Photos by 8th Grader, Jacob Hershberger

Running might seem like the simplest sport in the world. The only thing you do is run, right? While it may look easy, running competitively is actually quite complex. It is a sport that requires stamina, endurance, and speed.

Beyond the physical effort, there are specific routines you need to follow to be successful. Patience is key; you must be willing to train, eat right, get enough sleep, and repeat the process day after day. Athletes often train for months for just one short dash. These are just small snippets of the big picture, so let's look at exactly what it takes to become a great competitive runner.

To become a strong runner, you must dedicate your time and effort to training. It isn't just a random routine you do occasionally. One effective way to build endurance is to start by walking or jogging.

Walking for a few minutes a day helps your legs get moving, and if you increase that time by a minute each day, you can reset your goals every month. This type of steady progress exercises your legs to the point where walking a couple of miles won't feel exhausting anymore.

Beyond just hitting the pavement, specific exercises like squats and wall sits are incredibly helpful. These movements activate your legs, lower back, and core muscles—the very body parts that power your run. Strengthening these muscles not only makes you faster but also helps reduce the risk of injuries.

While exercises like wall sits might sound boring to some, many runners find success by creating their own unique schedules. For instance 8th grade Hillside student-athlete, Lewis Prosinski, has developed a specific routine. He explains, "On the weekends, I wake up at 8am and usually eat a good breakfast, then either play some basketball or go for a run." Lewis's approach highlights a great point: cross-training with other sports like basketball, soccer, or football is a fantastic way to build endurance.

Running is a necessity for most sports, so whether you are dribbling down a court or sprinting for a touchdown, you are building the speed and stamina needed to be a competitive runner.

Of course, you cannot run efficiently without the right fuel. While any food gives you energy, specific choices can take your running to the next level.

Fruits are an excellent choice, specifically bananas. They are rich in potassium, a mineral that prevents muscle cramps. Low potassium can lead to your muscles "locking up," so eating a banana before a run is a great way to stay pain-free.

Carbohydrates are also essential for energy. As Lewis mentioned, a good breakfast is vital. A classic option is eggs and whole-wheat toast. The toast provides healthy carbohydrates, while eggs are packed with protein and amino acids, which act as building blocks to help repair your muscles and aid in healing. For a quick snack on the go, granola bars or nuts are also great sources of protein and energy.

Once you have your nutrition dialed in, the final piece of the puzzle is skill and mental toughness.

Running requires good control of your arms and legs, as well as skillful breathing. It can be difficult, but trying to control your breath helps prevent exhaustion. If you need to recover during a break, putting your hands on your head allows your lungs to expand more fully. However, running is also a mental game that requires immense patience. Olympians train for years for a single race, and mistakes can happen to anyone.

It is important to remember that even natural athletes have to work hard. Lewis admitted, "I would definitely say that I work really hard since this is my first year running." It isn't always easy; in fact, when asked if he enjoyed it, Lewis honestly stated, "No, I think it is very painful and hard."

Like a difficult level in a video game, running can be a "side quest"—something challenging you do to build skills for other sports, but if you stay dedicated, maintain your routine, and fuel your body correctly, you will see improvement.

Running demands stamina and grit, but with practice, anyone can cross the finish line feeling proud.



Kickstarting a New Program,

The Case for Middle School Soccer





Written by CeCe Santander, 8th Grade Student Editor

A lively debate has emerged within our school community: should soccer be added to Hillside Middle School's athletic offerings? This question has sparked considerable discussion, with valid points on both sides. While some express hesitation about the potential challenges, I strongly believe that adding a soccer program would be a transformative decision for Hillside and other middle schools. The benefits far outweigh the drawbacks; soccer is more than just a game—it's a powerful tool for personal growth, physical fitness, and community building.

As one of the most popular sports in the world, introducing soccer in middle school could inspire a lifelong passion for the game in many students. Starting at this age provides a crucial window to develop skills and discover a new talent. More importantly, sports like soccer are exceptional teachers of vital life skills. Players learn how to collaborate toward a common goal, communicate effectively under pressure, and resolve conflicts.

Beyond these skills, the impact on student well-being is significant. Playing on a team boosts self-esteem, especially when students see their skills improve or contribute to a team's success. For many, being part of a team provides a vital sense of belonging. This positive social environment is complemented by the immense physical benefits. In an era dominated by digital devices, many adolescents lead increasingly sedentary lifestyles. Soccer offers a dynamic solution, promoting cardiovascular health and combating the health issues linked to inactivity.

The sport requires endurance, coordination, and quick thinking, sharpening both physical and mental abilities.

As a cross country runner, I've personally experienced this type of transformation; consistent training built my endurance and confidence, and the physical demands of soccer would offer the same benefits to a new group of students.

Furthermore, a middle school soccer program would serve as an extremely valuable preparatory step for high school athletics, giving students a head start and increasing their chances of excelling at a higher level. However, it is important to acknowledge the valid concerns some have raised. No new program comes without challenges, and those opposed to adding soccer point to several practical obstacles.

The biggest obstacle is a financial one - it will cost a lot of money. A new program would require a considerable investment in equipment, uniforms, and potentially field maintenance. Hiring qualified coaches adds to this expense.

Another valid issue is player safety. As a contact sport, soccer carries an inherent risk of injuries, such as sprains or concussions, requiring schools to ensure robust safety protocols are in place. Finally, logistics present a hurdle. Adding another sport could complicate existing after-school schedules and potentially stretch resources thin, which might impact other established programs.

Despite these legitimate challenges, the arguments in favor of soccer are more compelling. The investments in equipment and coaching are justifiable when weighed against the long-term benefits to student health and personal development. With proper training, supervision, and safety measures, the risk of injury can be minimized.

Scheduling issues, while complex, are solvable with careful planning. The potential obstacles, though real, are matters of logistics, not principle. The excitement and school spirit generated by a new soccer program could unify our community in a powerful way.

Ultimately, the advantages of adding soccer to our middle school are too significant to ignore. It promotes physical fitness, teaches invaluable life skills, and inspires students. By embracing this opportunity, our school can create a more dynamic and supportive environment for all. It is time for us to make this investment in our students' futures.

"A middle school soccer program would serve as an extremely valuable preparatory step for high school athletics..."

Hallway Talk

As they always say, taste is subjective. In the pizza industry, however, pineapple on pizza has become a hotly debated topic, some arguing that the texture is strange, or that the flavor of the topping does not compliment well with the pizza's iconic savoriness. Others claim that such a blend is common in modern day foods, and that the taste isn't strange at all.

As a newspaper staff, we've decided to interview some at Hillside to grasp different perspectives on the dish.

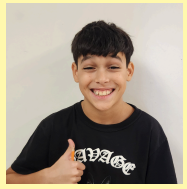
See their thoughts below.

Section by Adhanie Desinor, 7th Grade Reporter, and Chloe Vaughn, 5th Grade Reporter

DOES PINEAPPLE BELONG ON PIZZA?



"No, it's a fruit. It doesn't mix with the dough, pizza sauce, and cheese."
-Summer Marzulli
8th Grade



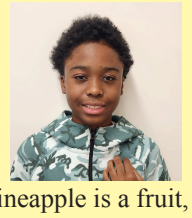
"Put whatever you want on pizza!"
-Diego Feliciano
7th Grade



"NO! It doesn't belong on pizza, it's doesn't taste good."
-Raelynn Williams
7th Grade



"Yes pineapple does belong! It tastes so sweet"
-Nadeen Taweel
6th Grade



Pineapple is a fruit, not a pizza topping.
-Santana Atkins
6th Grade



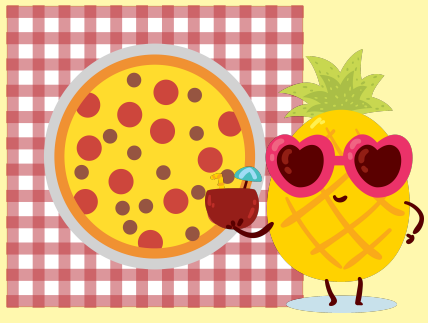
"No because we don't like a sweet with a salt food, NO MIXING!
-Mr. Powell,
-Mrs. Berghaus
Learning Center Teachers



"No, I think pineapple belongs in a fruit salad, not pizza!
-Brielle Brown
5th Grade



"Pineapple has to be on Pizza. It gives more taste and it looks better."
-Davyd Klymenko
5th Grade



An Annual Crowd Pleaser: Hillside Staff's Halloween Costume Contest

Another year, another contest. All grade levels took pride dressing up again for Halloween, but only ONE could walk away with a gift card prize from Mrs. Cook. This year's result crowns a NEW CHAMPION - one who often flies solo but is the glue that helps keep the building running smoothing. Drop a beat Mr. Abraham! CONGRATULATIONS!



FIRST PLACE WINNER:
Head Custodian, Mr. Abraham - DJ Khaled

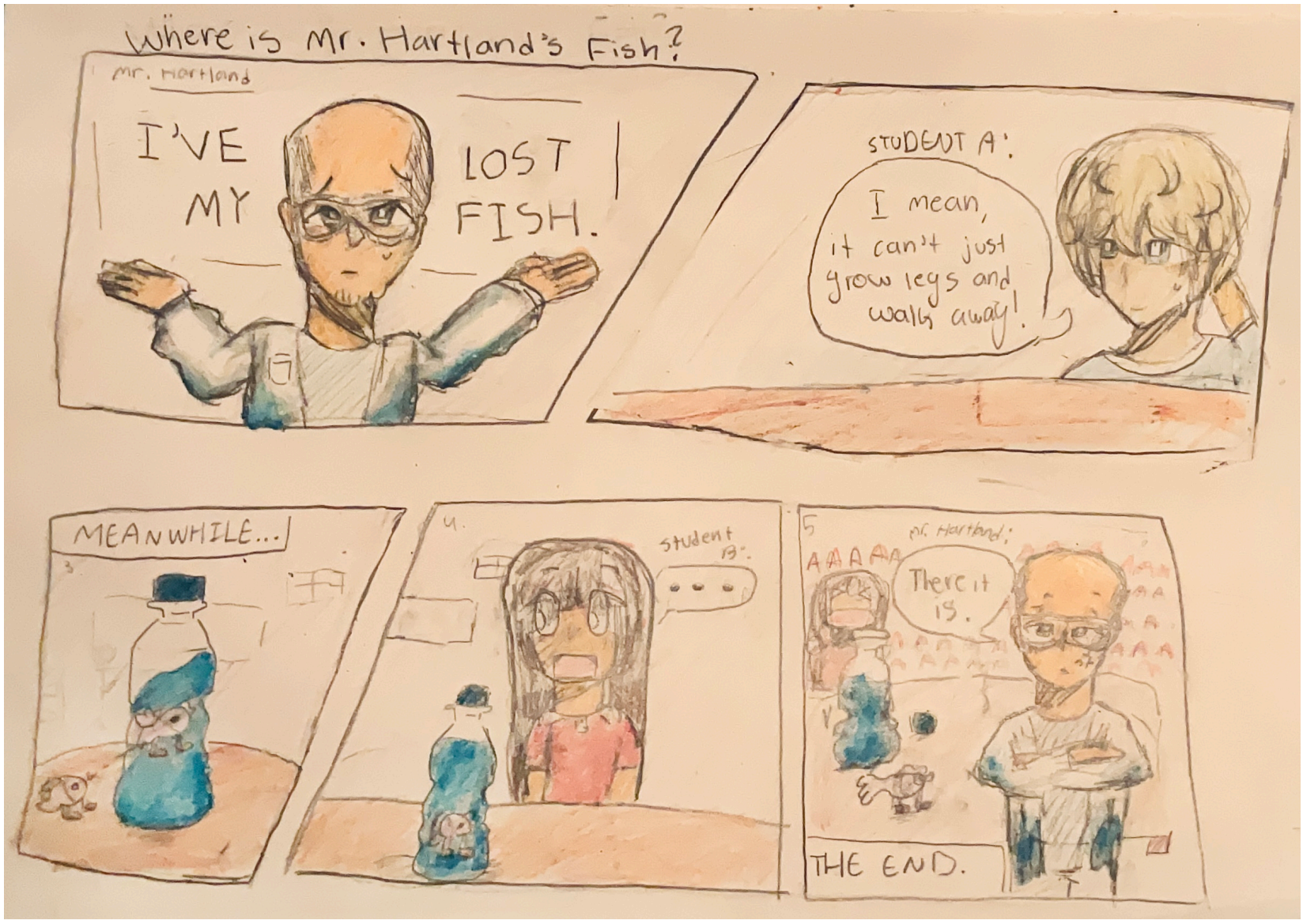


SECOND PLACE WINNERS:
5th Grade Staff - Dunkin Donuts



THIRD PLACE WINNERS:
8th Grade Staff - Guy Fieri

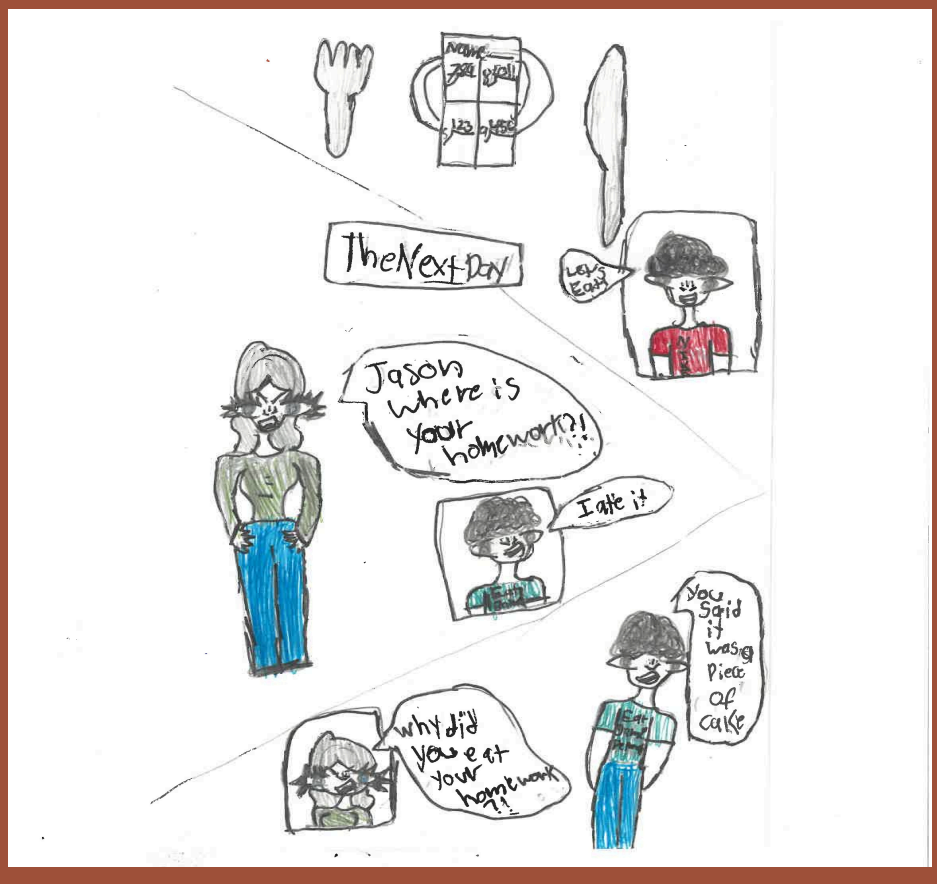
*Photos courtesy of HMS Office Staff



Comic created and illustrated by 7th Grade Cartoonist, Adhanie Desinor

Why did the students eat their homework? The teacher said it was a piece of cake.

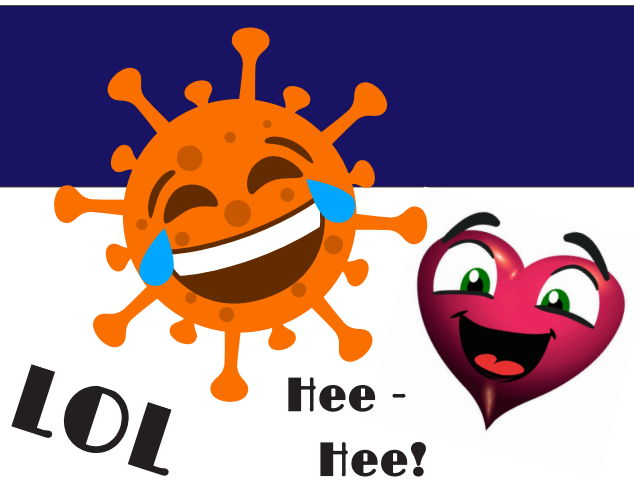




Left comic illustrated by 6th Grader, Aurora Sotak;

Right comic illustrated by 5th grader, Paiton Long

Witticisms



After an unsuccessful harvest, why did the farmer decide to try a career in music?

Because he had a ton of sick beets.



Why didn't the vampire attack Taylor Swift?

She had bad blood.



Of all the inventions of the last 100 years, the dry erase board has to be the most remarkable.

The difference between a numerator and a denominator is a short line.

Only a fraction of people will understand this.

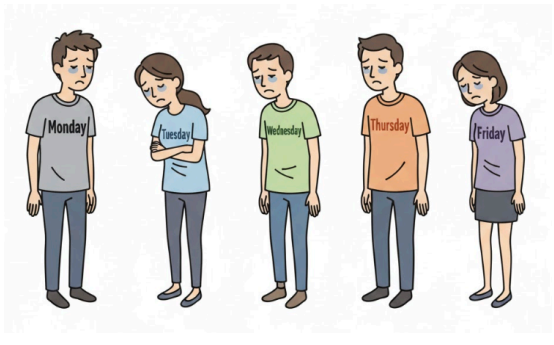


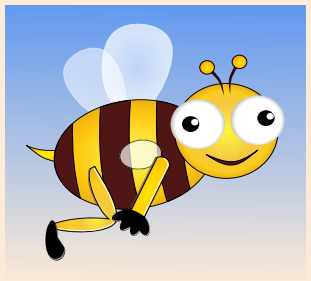
What is a guitar player's favorite Italian food?
Strum-boli.

I always knock on the fridge door before opening it, just in case there's a salad dressing.

Which days are the strongest?
Saturday and Sunday.

The rest are weekdays.





What do you call a beehive without an exit?

Unbelievable.

Have you heard about the restaurant on the moon?
Great food, no atmosphere.



I hate my job—all I do is crush cans all day.



It's soda pressing..

Did you know that the first french fries weren't cooked in France?

They were cooked in Greece.



DO YOU HAVE A GOOD JOKE THAT'S WORTH SHARING?
EMAIL IT TO MRS. WILES
AND IT MAY BE ILLUSTRATED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!
Deadline is January 9, 2026

Snapshots at HMS - First Trimester



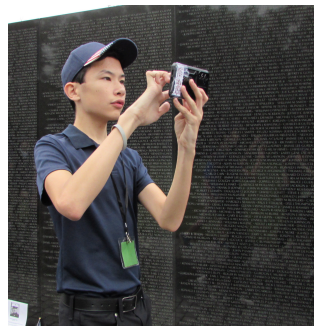


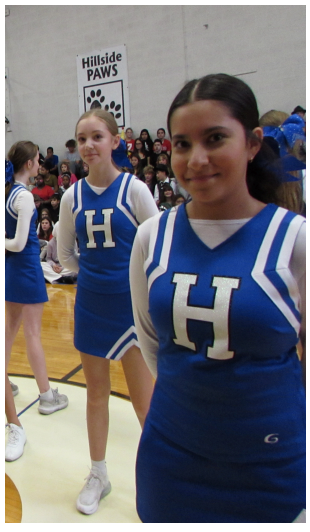






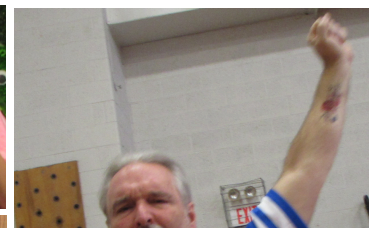


















Meet the Tiger Tribune Staff!

Welcome to year two of the Tiger Tribune!

As our newspaper club grows, so does our commitment to learning the art of digital journalism. We view this publication as a creative extension of our school day—a place where students sharpen their abilities to write, photograph, draw, and express their unique ideas. We are proud to serve our Hillside family and friends, and we are ready for a year filled with diligence, creativity and success! Enjoy this first issue of the year,
Mrs. Wiles
HMS Newspaper Advisor



STUDENT EDITORS





From left to right:
CeCe Santander, Michael Mays, Haley Cancilliere, Jacob Hershberger, and Nehali Dey

Photographers



From top to bottom, left to right:
Lily Ambrose, Reyce Kerns, August Watson, Moira Winnyk, Natalie Groth, Jack Perusek, Liam McLain, Kazi Tomaro, Sophia Garvin, and Aubrey Rose.

News Reporters



From left to right, front row: Islam Yahi, Emma Cash, Chloe Vaughn, Christina Otero, Emma Brown.
Back row: Omar Abdelhai, Yaminah Abdelhaq, Sara Hershberger, and Ollie Crank.

Cartoonists/Artists



From left to right: Adhanie Desinor, Emma Jacobson, Paiton Long, and Olivia Garvin.
Missing: Aurora Sotak